

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## **Finding of No Significant Impact – 2008 Expanded Sacramento Valley Accelerated Water Transfer Program FONSI No. NC-08-06**

**Mid-Pacific Region**



**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation**

**July 2008**

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## Background

The Bureau of Reclamation proposes a limited expansion of the accelerated process under which the types of water transfers or exchanges that occurred in the Sacramento Valley prior to the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, as well as other transfers and exchanges that comply with Section 3405, are approved in an expedited manner. This limited program will be restricted to transfers which do not rely on actions that may affect listed species, particularly, but not limited to, the federally-listed giant garter snake. This limited program will otherwise be identical to a June 2008 proposal for expansion of the accelerated process. In practice, this means that transferred water must come from sources that do not involve reductions in water applied to rice fields and must be delivered through an appropriate fish screen.

## Findings

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Regional Office has determined that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required for this limited expansion of the existing accelerated water transfer program.

This Finding of No Significant Impact is based on the following:

1. The transfer will not cause any change in the flow in the Sacramento River or the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta because summer releases from the Shasta and Whiskeytown Reservoirs are generally driven by temperature control requirements for the upper 30 miles, which are substantially independent of water demands.
2. The transfer will not result in any new construction or changes in existing operations because existing facilities would be used to divert the water out of the Sacramento River.
3. The transferred water will not result in the irrigation of any new or additional land.
4. The criteria for approval of transfers under this action will prevent adverse effects on either listed or unlisted fish or wildlife and their critical habitat.

FONSI No. NC-08-06

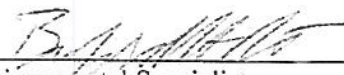
5. The criteria for approval of transfer under this action will prevent adverse effects on cultural resources and unique geologic features.
6. No Indian Trust Assets would be affected.
7. The program is consistent with Federal policies on Environmental Justice.

Recommend:

Repayment Specialist  
Northern California Area Office

Date

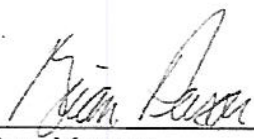
Concur:

  
Environmental Specialist  
Northern California Area Office

Date

7/30/08

Approved:

  
Area Manager  
Northern California Area Office

Date

July 30, 2008